

Application No. 10/553,378

December 11, 2008

Reply to the Notice of Allowance dated September 22, 2008

Page 7 of 11

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of Drawings includes changes to Figs. 8 and 9. Figs. 8 and 9 have been labeled Prior Art.

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicant AMENDS the Abstract, the drawings, and Claim 4.

The drawings were objected to for failing to designate Fig. 8 as --Prior Art--. Applicant has determined that Fig. 9 should also be labeled as --Prior Art--. Applicant has amended Figs. 8 and 9 to properly be designated as --Prior Art--. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

The Examiner objected to the Abstract for allegedly containing more than 150 words. Applicant has amended the Abstract to be 150 words or less. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract.

Claim 4 was objected to for allegedly containing a minor informality. Applicant has amended claim 4 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claim 4.

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the above Amendment in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.312. It is respectfully submitted that entry of the Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312 is appropriate since (a) the Amendment merely corrects a minor error and does not change the scope of any allowed claim, and (b) no substantial amount of additional work is required on the part of the Patent Office (MPEP § 714.16).

Additionally, all of the amendments in the above Amendment were necessitated by the Examiner's objections in the Notice of Allowance dated September 22, 2008.

Application No. 10/553,378

December 11, 2008

Reply to the Notice of Allowance dated September 22, 2008

Page 9 of 11

In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that the foregoing Amendment be entered in the present application. If any fee is required for consideration of this paper, please charge it to deposit account no. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 11, 2008

/Stephen R. Funk #57,751/
Attorneys for Applicant

KEATING & BENNETT, LLP

1800 Alexander Bell Drive, Suite 200

Reston, VA 20191

Telephone: (571) 313-7440

Facsimile: (571) 313-7421

Joseph R. Keating

Registration No. 37,368

Stephen R. Funk

Registration No. 57,751